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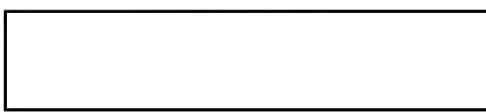
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USSR-Cuba: The underlying tension in Soviet-Cuban relations has increased since the death of Che Guevara and the collapse of the Bolivian guerrilla movement.

Moscow eulogized Guevara when his death was announced. Shortly thereafter, however, the Soviet press published articles by two Latin American Communists critical of the Castro regime's attempts to export revolution. The timing of these articles must have seemed provocative to the Cubans, and this may account for their having sent a low-level delegation to the Soviet 50th anniversary celebrations. The Soviets apparently had expected President Dorticos to attend.

Soviet party chief Brezhnev indirectly chastised the Cubans further in his speech last Friday. The Cubans were a target of his comment that "Marxist-Leninists have always understood that socialism cannot be transplanted from one country to the other by means of armed force." Perhaps in reaction, the Cuban ambassador failed to join other members of the diplomatic corps in a call on President Podgorny yesterday.

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The flow of Soviet economic and military assistance to Cuba continues,

and a Cuban trade delegation has been in Moscow since mid-October engaged in typically prolonged negotiations.

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NOTE

South Arabia: The South Arabian Army has abandoned its neutrality in the Aden fighting and declared its support for the National Liberation Front. Following five days of bloody fighting in which more than 100 Arabs were killed and some 300 wounded, the army has asked the Front and the British High Commissioner to negotiate for immediate independence. It is not clear whether the army's move arises from a final political split among its officers, or from a desire to climb on the Liberation Front band wagon. In any event, ending the army's pacifying role in divided Aden probably will lead to still more bloodshed as the Front's opponents grow desperate.

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